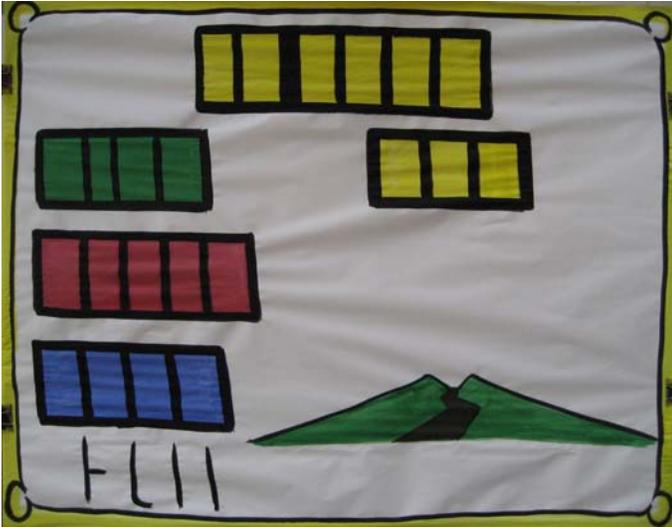


If Only

Matthew 19:16-22



Rich

RICH

I want to tell you a story about a man that many people would like to be like. Now, this man was this...look closely and you will be able to see a word appear RICH (Fill in "Rich" on the sketch board). Yes, this man was rich. He had all the money he could ever want. He had cars, houses and everything he touched prospered.

Young

YOUNG

Not only was he rich, but he was also this right here.....YOUNG . He was young! He had money and his entire life ahead of him to spend that money as he sees fit (Fill in "Young" on the sketch board).

Boss

BOSS

Not only was he rich and young but he was also this.....BOSS. He was the boss! (Fill in "Boss"). Not only was he in charge of other people but also he was in charge of himself. He did what he wanted and he did it "well."

Many of us are like this man. We may not have it all but we want it all. We say, IF ONLY (Fill in "If Only"). If only I was rich, then I would be secure for many years to come. If only I was young and beautiful, then I would feel in control of life. This is not so. Our money will leave. Youth is only for a time. And our coming death is always before us. All possessions will be swallowed up. If we hope in these things nothing is what we are left with.

There was a man just like the one we are talking about today in the Bible. He came to Jesus and ask, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life" (Matthew 19:16). Jesus responded, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments" (17). To which the ruler replied, "Which ones?" And Jesus said, "You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (18). The young man said to him, "All these I have kept. What do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions (20-22).

This man had a big problem he was a sinner and he was so full (Write in "Full") of himself and his possessions that He would not put His trust in Jesus. It was not that having money was wrong it was that He loved his possessions more than God. He was breaking God's commandment that "You shall have no other gods before Me." Notice that Jesus said, "There is only one who is good" (17). That means that Jesus is the only one that is good and that everyone else in the whole world from beginning to end had or has the sin problem. How many here have ever lied? Taken things that do not belong to you? Do you love other things more than God? If you love your own way more than God's way you will never know God's forgiveness. You will never have true life. Jesus put it this way, "For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself" (Luke 9:25). And, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life" (John 12:25).

GOD

Trusting in things that are passing away are foolish. That One who is eternal is God (fill in the word GOD), and Jesus Christ is God who has become flesh. He came to the earth as a man to bleed and die on the cross to pay the penalty of death for all who have sinned (sketch the cross, the crown of thorns, the nails, the blood, and the resurrection arrow. Peach the cross). The Bible says, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). All people have faith in something. Most trust in the things on the sketch board that are temporary, but our faith is only as good as the object of faith. Jesus is eternal, so if one believes in Him he or she has eternal life.

Turn in Repentance Towards God

So order to be saved and to have eternal life you must turn away from loving your own way more than God and turn to Him in repentance (Acts 20:21).

In order to have this life one must first turn (write TURN on the sketch board) from his or her way and turn to God. The Bible says, "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead" (Acts 8:30-31).

A close-up photograph of the word "TURN" written in black marker on a white surface, likely a sketch board. The letters are bold and slightly slanted.

Place Faith In Jesus

The other thing you must do is place your faith in Jesus Christ and what he did for us by dying for our sins and then raising from the dead. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved. . ." (Acts 16:31).

A close-up photograph of the word "TRUST" written in black marker on a white surface, likely a sketch board. The letters are bold and slightly slanted.